

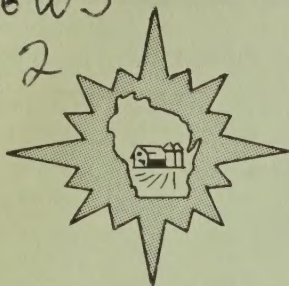
## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





24D1775  
W6W5  
Cop. 2



# WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. VII, NO. 7

May 1975

## Cream of the News

Higher government support prices for butter and cheese resulted in an increase for milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in April.

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during April showed little change from a year ago.

Wholesale prices of dairy products increased from March to April.

Butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation during March remained well above the previous year but cheese production continued lower.

Cash receipts from milk sales by Wisconsin farmers totaled almost \$1.4 billion in 1974, an increase of 14 percent from 1973.

Feeder pig prices in Wisconsin rose sharply from January to April as prospects appeared favorable for a strong hog market in the summer months.

Production of pork in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during March was down 21 percent from a year ago while output of beef was up 8 percent.

The hog and beef markets at St. Paul showed price strength from March to April as did feeder steers at Kansas City.

Wisconsin mink ranches produced 889,000 mink pelts in 1974, down 3 percent from 1973 but still double the output of the next ranking state.

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-April was up from a month earlier due to higher prices for milk, livestock, and most crops.

After a late start, the progress of field work on Wisconsin farms improved rapidly during favorable weather in May.

The State's maple syrup production for the 1975 season was estimated at only 62,000 gallons.

Cold storage stocks of meat, cheese, and butter in the Nation at the end of April were below a year ago.

## MILK PRODUCTION HOLDING STEADY

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during April totaled 1,654 million pounds, about the same as a year earlier. Production per cow averaged 915 pounds in April, equal to April 1974. Seasonally, milk production during April increased less than 1 percent from March compared with a gain of 2 percent for that period last year. For the first four months of 1975, milk production in Wisconsin is just slightly above January-April a year ago.

The annual quantity of grain and other concentrates fed to Wisconsin milk cows during 1974 totaled 3,485,000 tons, down 6 percent from 1973. Dairymen in the State fed an average of 3,870 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow in 1974 compared with an average of 4,080 pounds the previous year. The average value for 100 pounds of concentrate ration fed to milk cows was \$5.81 in 1974, up \$1.39 from a year earlier. Although milk prices in 1974 averaged higher than in 1973, the milk-feed price ratios during 1974 were at their lowest level in several years as the value of the feed ration increased greater than milk prices did. The milk-feed price ratio (value of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of whole milk) averaged 1.32 for 1974, a decline of 13 percent from 1973.

Milk Production

Selected States	April 1974	April 1975	Jan.-April 1975	Change from last year	
				April	Jan.-April
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . .	1,646	1,654	6,201	n. c.	n. c.
Minnesota . . .	901	869	3,338	- 4	- 3
Iowa . . . . .	337	341	1,292	+ 1	n. c.
New York . . .	871	886	3,358	+ 2	+ 3
Pennsylvania . .	601	605	2,303	+ 1	+ 2
California . . .	885	894	3,412	+ 1	+ 1
Other states . .	4,881	4,872	18,316	n. c.	n. c.
United States .	10,122	10,121	38,220	n. c.	n. c.

The Nation's milk production in April was 10,121 million pounds virtually unchanged from a year earlier. Production per cow averaged 906 pounds in April, up 5 pounds from the previous year but milk cow numbers were lower.

222-5-75

## WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

A Cooperative Function of

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture  
Division of Administration

United States Department of Agriculture  
Statistical Reporting Service



Milk production in the Nation during the first four months of 1975 shows a slight gain from that period in 1974.

Grain and other concentrates fed to all milk cows during 1974 was 24.6 million tons, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Dairymen fed 4,384 pounds of grain and other concentrates per milk cow in 1974, a little below the previous year. The average value of concentrate ration fed to milk cows in 1974 was \$6.23 per 100 pounds compared with \$4.88 in 1973. The annual milk-feed price ratio for 1974 averaged 1.33, down 9 percent from a year earlier. Although farmers received a 16 percent increase in the price per hundredweight of milk sold to plants in 1974, this was more than offset by a 28 percent increase in the value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows.

### MILK PRICES MOVE UPWARD IN APRIL

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers increased from March to April on the strength of higher government support prices for butter and cheese. Wisconsin dairy farmers are expected to receive \$7.60 a hundredweight for all milk of average test delivered to plants and dealers during April. This would be 10 cents above March but 73 cents below April last year.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	February 1975		March price per cwt.			April 1975 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1974	1975	75/74 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin . . . . .	3.80	7.50	8.71	7.50	- 14	7.60
Minnesota . . . . .	3.67	7.14	8.23	7.07	- 14	7.12
Iowa . . . . .	3.79	7.38	8.61	7.31	- 15	7.19
New York . . . . .	3.66	8.20	8.85	7.90	- 11	7.55
California . . . . .	3.75	8.90	7.72	8.60	+ 11	8.60
United States . . . . .	3.75	8.28	8.96	8.13	- 9	8.05
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk . . . . .	3.82	7.77	8.88	7.75	- 13	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.77	7.11	8.47	7.14	- 16	xxx
Creameries . . . . .	3.70	7.04	8.42	7.05	- 16	xxx
Cheese factories . . . . .	3.78	7.12	8.48	7.15	- 16	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.75	7.06	8.44	7.08	- 16	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

### — PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

#### Statisticians

H. M. Walters, *In Charge*

M. E. Johnson, *Assistant in Charge*

M. A. Anderson

L. E. Krahn

J. S. Buche

C. W. LeGrande

#### Editor

Marvin Heiser

*This publication is free upon request to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.*

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	March 1974	February 1975	March 1975 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses . . . . .	8.15	6.91	6.93	- 15
Market milk . . . . .	8.27	7.13	7.12	- 14
Manufacturing milk . . . . .	7.99	6.50	6.65	- 17
Creameries . . . . .	8.01	6.66	6.71	- 16
American cheese plants . . . . .	8.00	6.59	6.63	- 17
Varied products plants . . . . .	7.98	6.59	6.63	- 17
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . . . . .	8.74	7.44	7.43	- 15

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

Milk prices for March averaged \$7.50 a hundredweight, the same as in February but \$1.21 under a year earlier. The average milkfat content in March was 3.79 percent compared with 3.74 percent in March 1974.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$7.75 a hundredweight in March, down 2 cents from February and \$1.13 less than a year earlier. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$7.14 a hundredweight for March, an increase of 3 cents from February but \$1.33 below the previous year. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 61 cents in March compared with 41 cents for March 1974.

### WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES INCREASE

Prices of wholesale dairy products increased from March to April. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 78.80 cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets in April, up nearly 1½ cents from the previous month but 9½ cents under a year ago.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged almost \$1.05 a pound for April, a gain of over 3 cents from March but more than 3 cents below last year.

The 92-score butter price at New York averaged 70.42 cents a pound during April. This was an increase of more than 1 cent from a month earlier and about ½ cent above April 1974.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	April 1974	March 1975	April 1975 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	69.88¢	69.25¢	70.42¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . .	88.35¢	77.38¢	78.80¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/ . . . . .	108.25¢	101.75¢	104.95¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range . . . . .	\$11.30-12.10	\$11.90-12.52	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound . . . . .	68.73¢	60.58¢	60.66¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

### VALUE OF MILK SALES UP 14 PERCENT IN 1974

Preliminary estimates indicate that cash receipts for milk sold by Wisconsin farmers totaled almost \$1.4 billion in 1974, an increase of 14 percent from 1973. Milk prices averaged \$7.69 a hundredweight for 1974, up nearly \$1.00 from the previous year. The total pounds of milk marketed by Wisconsin farmers during 1974 was down about ½ percent from 1973.



Of the 18,362 million pounds of milk produced on Wisconsin farms in 1974, farmers marketed 97 percent and kept 3 percent for use on their farms. Milk production during 1974 exceeded 1973 only in August, September, and October. The annual average production per cow for 1974 was 10,195 pounds, just slightly higher than a year earlier.

In the last ten years, cash receipts from milk sales have more than doubled. While marketings of milk declined over 4 percent in that period, the average price received for milk increased from \$3.46 a hundredweight in 1964 to \$7.69 in 1974.

#### Disposition and Sales of Milk Produced, Wisconsin, 1956-74

Year	Total milk production	Milk fed or consumed on farms where produced				Milk sold from farms				
		Fed to calves	Consumed in the farm household		Total	To plants and dealers		Direct to consumers	Total	Value of sales
			As milk and cream	As farm butter		As cream	As milk			
		Million pounds								1,000 dollars
1956 . . . .	16,922	626	379	9	1,014	100	15,773	35	15,908	535,392
1957 . . . .	17,433	604	355	9	968	90	16,345	30	16,465	557,428
1958 . . . .	17,956	594	349	7	950	50	16,926	30	17,006	557,478
1959 . . . .	17,815	577	335	6	918	50	16,817	30	16,897	555,615
1960 . . . .	17,780	545	320	5	870	40	16,840	30	16,910	588,459
1961 . . . .	17,931	515	302	4	821	30	17,050	30	17,110	609,158
1962 . . . .	18,598	490	286	3	779	20	17,770	29	17,819	609,297
1963 . . . .	18,597	475	277	2	754	14	17,800	29	17,843	610,199
1964 . . . .	19,358	460	267	2	729	10	18,590	29	18,629	646,243
1965 . . . .	18,841	445	257	1	703	9	18,100	29	18,138	645,514
1966 . . . .	18,052	430	240	1	671	5	17,350	26	17,381	741,953
1967 . . . .	18,219	415	229	1	658 1/	5	17,530	26	17,561	763,812
1968 . . . .	18,210	400	209	—	609	5	17,570	26	17,601	807,717
1969 . . . .	18,051	384	210	—	594	2	17,430	25	17,457	851,741
1970 . . . .	18,435	383	196	—	579	1	17,830	25	17,856	915,774
1971 . . . .	18,848	386	182	—	568	—	18,260	20	18,280	970,059
1972 . . . .	19,226	381	181	—	562	—	18,645	19	18,664	1,035,142
1973 . . . .	18,442	376	178	—	554	—	17,870	18	17,888	1,201,337
1974* . . . .	18,362	374	176	—	550	—	17,795	17	17,812	1,369,107

\*Preliminary. 1/Includes some milk used for other purposes on farms or not utilized.

#### PORK PRODUCTION WELL BELOW A YEAR AGO

Production of pork in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during March was down 21 percent from a year ago. There were only 262,000 hogs butchered in March, a decline of 62,000 from the previous year and the lowest total for March since 1958. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered in March was 239 pounds, 6 pounds lighter than last year.

Beef production in Wisconsin during March was up 8 percent from a year earlier. The 106,000 cattle killed during March were 13,000 more than in March 1974. Cattle liveweight averaged 1,098 pounds for March, down 59 pounds from the previous year.

Calf slaughter during March numbered 28,500, an increase of 8,100 from a year ago. Calves averaged 150 pounds liveweight, 4 pounds lighter than in March 1974. Only 200 sheep and lambs were butchered in March compared with 300 a year earlier.

With pork production down considerably, the total output of red meat in Wisconsin during March was 5 percent below last year.

#### MEAT STOCKS DOWN A FIFTH

Total stocks of meat in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of April were a fifth lower than a year ago. Supplies of beef in cold storage were 25 percent less than on April 30, 1974 and pork stocks were down 15 percent.

There were almost 350 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of April. This was a decline of more than 33 million pounds from a month earlier and about 118 million pounds below last year.

Stocks of frozen veal on April 30 were 19 percent below a year ago and lamb and mutton stocks were down 30 percent.

The 341 million pounds of pork in cold storage at the end of April were up by more than 43 million pounds from the previous month but 58 million pounds under April 30, 1974. Frozen pork bellies amounted to 67 million pounds at the end of April, a 28 percent gain from a month earlier but 15 percent below last year.

#### Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	March		Change from last year	March	
	1974	1975		1974	1975
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin . . . . .	93.0	106.0	+ 14	107.6	116.4
United States 1/. .	2,876.4	3,131.5	+ 9	3,063.4	3,205.6
Calves					
Wisconsin . . . . .	20.4	28.5	+ 40	3.1	4.3
United States 1/. .	213.1	360.9	+ 69	47.8	100.3
Hogs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	324.0	262.0	- 19	79.4	62.6
United States 1/. .	6,948.3	6,104.8	- 12	1,696.7	1,435.2
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	.3	.2	- 33	.030	.019
United States 1/. .	791.1	675.1	- 15	87.9	71.0

1/Excludes Alaska.



**Cold Storage Stocks of Meat  
United States**

Commodity	April 30, 1973	April 30, 1974	March 31, 1975	April 30, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
<b>Beef:</b>					
Frozen	350,218	454,118	374,300	340,900	- 25
In cure and cured	9,899	13,308	8,929	8,764	- 34
Total	360,117	467,426	383,229	349,664	- 25
<b>Pork:</b>					
Frozen	234,060	383,856	285,989	328,283	- 14
In cooler	14,388	15,259	12,537	12,906	- 15
Total	248,448	399,115	298,526	341,189	- 15
<b>Other meats and meat products:</b>					
Veal, frozen	13,223	13,723	12,561	11,132	- 19
Lamb and mutton, frozen	13,210	14,149	9,320	9,942	- 30
<b>Canned meats in cooler:</b>					
Hams	54,739	84,599	66,327	67,446	- 20
Other meats	16,922	16,852	13,293	14,701	- 13
<b>Total, all meats</b>	<b>706,659</b>	<b>995,864</b>	<b>783,256</b>	<b>794,074</b>	<b>- 20</b>

**FARM PRODUCT PRICES  
HIGHER IN MID-APRIL**

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for milk, livestock, and most crops increased from March to April. The index of prices received for farm products averaged 486 percent of the 1910-14 base as of mid-April, a gain of 7 points (1½ percent) from a month earlier but still 10 percent under last year.

Milk cow prices increased for the second straight month after having declined for several months. Milk cows for herd replacements averaged \$455.00 each in April, an increase of \$20.00 from March but almost \$200.00 below April 1974.

Steers and heifers averaged \$32.70 a hundredweight as of April 15, up \$2.20 from the previous month but \$4.20 less than a year ago. Slaughter cow prices continued to increase during 1975. The mid-April average of \$20.40 a hundredweight was \$1.50 higher than March but \$10.60 below April 1974.

Hog prices averaged \$38.20 a hundredweight in April, a gain of 30 cents from a month earlier and \$8.20 above last year. Calves brought \$31.30 a hundredweight in mid-April, up \$1.00 from March but considerably below the \$52.10 a year ago.

**Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers**

Commodity	Unit	April 15, 1973	April 15, 1974	March 15, 1975	April 15, 1975
		Dollars			
Milk cows	Head	570.00	650.00	435.00	455.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	42.00	36.90	30.50	32.70
Cows	Cwt.	32.70	31.00	18.90	20.40
Calves	Cwt.	56.00	52.10	29.30	31.30
Hogs	Cwt.	34.60	30.00	37.90	38.20
Sheep	Cwt.	9.10	10.40	6.30	7.80
Lambs	Cwt.	33.00	35.30	35.50	36.60
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.120	.125	.110	.115
Turkeys	Lb.	.280	.320	.360	.370
Eggs	Doz.	.460	.486	.469	.396
Corn	Bu.	1.32	2.48	2.68	2.73
Wheat	Bu.	1.97	4.14	3.42	3.25
Oats	Bu.	.82	1.27	1.38	1.45
Soybeans	Bu.	6.05	5.11	5.13	5.50
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	32.50	34.00	40.50	43.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Sheep increased \$1.50 from March to April but at \$7.80 a hundredweight were \$2.60 below April 1974. Lambs averaged \$36.60 a hundredweight as of April 15, up \$1.10 from a month earlier and \$1.30 more than last year.

Egg prices dropped sharply in April. At 39.6 cents a dozen for mid-April, eggs were down more than 7 cents from March and 9 cents under a year ago. Turkeys averaged 37 cents a pound liveweight in April, a gain of 1 cent from the previous month and 5 cents above April 1974.

Crop prices increased from March to April except for wheat. The mid-April average of \$3.25 a bushel for wheat was 17 cents lower than in March and 89 cents below a year earlier. Corn prices went up in April after having declined for five consecutive months. Corn averaged \$2.73 a bushel as of April 15, up 5 cents from the previous month and 25 cents higher than April 1974.

Oats averaged \$1.45 a bushel in April, an increase of 7 cents from March and 18 cents above a year ago. Soybeans rose 37 cents from March to April and at \$5.50 a bushel in mid-April were 39 cents more than last year.

Prices for baled alfalfa hay reached a record high of \$43.00 a ton in April, up \$2.50 from March and \$9.00 greater than April 1974.

**FEEDER PIG PRICE  
UP SUBSTANTIALLY**

Feeder pig prices in Wisconsin rose sharply from January to April as the prospects looked favorable for a strong hog market in the summer months. Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$37.30 in April for a feeder pig averaging 41 pounds. This was \$13.70 more than in January and the highest price for any quarter dating back to 1965. A year ago in April feeder pig prices averaged \$27.60 for a feeder pig averaging 39 pounds. After showing a slight rise in the last quarter of 1974, feeder pig prices in Wisconsin have continued upward during 1975.

**Wisconsin Feeder Pig Prices and Weights 1/**

Year	January	April	July	October
	Dollars per head			
1965	10.50	12.10	13.00	15.15
1966	20.65	20.00	16.60	16.30
1967	14.50	14.75	15.20	14.90
1968	13.70	15.40	15.10	15.20
1969	14.00	16.40	17.80	19.00
1970	21.50	24.50	18.80	12.60
1971	9.35	12.05	12.80	14.30
1972	18.50	21.70	23.30	23.50
1973	24.80	30.90	34.50	32.10
1974	30.70	27.60	17.20	18.20
1975	23.60	37.30		
	Pounds per head			
1965	42	40	40	40
1966	41	40	40	41
1967	42	41	41	41
1968	42	40	41	41
1969	41	41	41	41
1970	41	39	40	40
1971	41	40	40	41
1972	41	40	40	40
1973	41	40	40	40
1974	40	39	40	41
1975	41	41		

1/Prices paid by farmers and weights are average for the month as reported by Wisconsin Crop Correspondents.



## BUTTER PRODUCTION ABOVE YEAR AGO

Butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation during March continued well above a year ago. Wisconsin creameries churned over 20 million pounds of butter in March, an increase of 32 percent from the previous year. The Nation's butter output for March was up about a fourth from last year. While Minnesota showed an increase of only 2 percent in butter production from March 1974, Iowa was up 50 percent and all other states gained 34 percent.

Cheese production in the Nation during March was 12 percent under a year earlier. Output of both American and Swiss cheese was down about a fifth from March last year and offset increases for Brick and Muenster, Italian, and all other varieties.

### Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	March 1974	March 1975	Jan. - March 1975	Change from last year	
				March	Jan.-Mar.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin . . . . .	15,470	20,400	58,700	+ 32	+ 27
Minnesota . . . . .	23,020	23,485	64,810	+ 2	+ 7
Iowa . . . . .	3,000	4,500	13,100	+ 50	+ 62
Other states . . . . .	35,903	47,960	147,456	+ 34	+ 32
United States . . . . .	77,393	96,345	284,066	+ 24	+ 25
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin . . . . .	73,800	62,800	172,900	- 15	- 14
Minnesota . . . . .	25,690	23,340	64,700	- 9	- 13
Missouri . . . . .	8,525	3,100	8,250	- 64	- 64
Other states . . . . .	72,958	54,877	150,987	- 25	- 20
United States . . . . .	180,973	144,117	396,837	- 20	- 19
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss . . . . .	6,719	13,537	37,944	- 19	- 13
Brick and Muenster . . .	6,242	7,118	18,437	+ 14	+ 5
Italian . . . . .	49,665	52,779	152,043	+ 6	+ 4
All other . . . . .	17,059	20,464	52,919	+ 20	+ 9
Total . . . . .	89,685	93,898	261,343	+ 5	+ 2
ALL CHEESE					
United States . . . . .	270,658	238,015	658,180	- 12	- 11
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/ . . . . .	61,139	59,443	171,376	- 3	n. c.
Creamed 2/ . . . . .	76,492	76,960	217,682	+ 1	+ 1
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin . . . . .	1,325	1,300	3,850	- 2	+ 1
Illinois . . . . .	3,800	3,300	9,100	- 13	- 11
Iowa . . . . .	800	870	2,270	+ 9	+ 23
Michigan . . . . .	3,228	3,485	9,320	+ 8	+ 10
Minnesota . . . . .	2,310	2,175	6,390	- 6	- 4
Other states . . . . .	54,239	58,989	157,674	+ 9	+ 8
United States . . . . .	65,702	70,119	188,604	+ 7	+ 7

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

### Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	March 31, 1973	March 31, 1974	March 31, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk . . . . .	3,386	8,313	6,003	- 28
Dried skim milk . . . . .	39,876	58,022	118,052	+ 103
Dried buttermilk . . . . .	4,537	6,342	5,678	- 10
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . . . . .	35,622	62,157	54,306	- 13

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

Wisconsin dairy plants produced nearly 63 million pounds of American cheese during March, down 15 percent from the previous year. Output of American cheese in Minnesota was 9 percent below March a year ago while Missouri had a decline of 64 percent and other states were down 25 percent.

Production of cottage cheese curd in the Nation during March was 3 percent below a year earlier but output of creamed cottage cheese increased 1 percent. The Nation's ice cream production for March was up 7 percent from March 1974.

## STATE'S MINK PRODUCTION LOWER IN 1974

Mink ranches in Wisconsin produced 889,000 pelts in 1974, down 3 percent from 1973 when the State had its first increase since the mink survey began in 1969. Although its mink production declined in 1974, Wisconsin was by far the leading mink raiser with double the output of the next ranking state, Minnesota. Wisconsin produced 28 percent of the Nation's mink pelts in 1974.

There were 302 mink ranches producing pelts in Wisconsin during 1974, a decline of 20 ranches from 1973 and less than half of the total in operation when the first mink survey was conducted six years ago. Wisconsin mink raisers have 248,000 females bred to produce kits in 1975, the same as in 1974.

Pastel was the dominant color class of mink pelts produced in Wisconsin during 1974, accounting for 36 percent of the total. Standard made up 26 percent of the color class, while pearl contributed about 12 percent and violet types 10 percent.

Mink pelt production in the Nation during 1974 totaled 3.1 million pelts, up 3 percent from 1973. Mink ranches producing pelts in 1974 numbered 1,221, down 8 percent from the previous year. A total of 870,000 females are bred to produce kits in 1975, a decline of 4 percent from 1974.

### Mink Production

State	Ranches producing pelts		Pelts produced		Females bred	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1974	1975
	Number		1,000		1,000	
Wisconsin . . . . .	322	302	918	889	248	248
Minnesota . . . . .	157	160	417	443	121	112
Utah . . . . .	218	198	283	315	103	99
Washington . . . . .	64	59	144	158	42.5	43
Ohio . . . . .	57	51	126	131	38	35
Oregon . . . . .	55	50	160	158	43	41
Illinois . . . . .	39	31	146	158	42.5	44
Michigan . . . . .	45	43	125	135	35	34
New York . . . . .	51	44	123	117	31	28.5
Pennsylvania . . . . .	59	54	109	121	38.6	39.5
Idaho . . . . .	47	44	122	136	45.5	39
Iowa . . . . .	60	59	106	112	39	34.5
South Dakota . . . . .	12	8	63.5	62	16	15.5
Indiana . . . . .	16	14	33.5	31	8.5	5.9
Massachusetts . . . . .	18	15	24	20	6.5	6
All other states . . . . .	109	89	137	142	47	44.7
United States . . . . .	1,329	1,221	3,037	3,128	905	870



## STATE'S MAPLE SYRUP OUTPUT DOWN IN 1975

Production of maple syrup in Wisconsin during the 1975 season was estimated at 62,000 gallons, down 18,000 gallons from 1974. The season started slow with little sap run during March. Well below normal temperatures in the first half of April continued to restrict sap flow. The sap that was collected was of good sugar content and produced mostly light to medium colored syrup of good table quality. There was a limited market for commercial grade dark syrup produced late in the season so some producers pulled their taps earlier than usual and this reduced the total crop.

The Nation's maple syrup production for 1975 was up 10 percent from the previous year as all states except Michigan and Wisconsin showed increases. New York was the leading maple syrup producer with 366,000 gallons in 1975, followed closely by Vermont with 353,000 gallons. These two states produced 60 percent of the Nation's maple syrup crop in 1975.

Maple Syrup  
Wisconsin and Other Leading States

State	Production		
	1973	1974	1975 1/
	1,000 gallons		
Maine . . . . .	8	7	9
New Hampshire . . . . .	48	53	71
Vermont . . . . .	323	325	353
Massachusetts . . . . .	20	25	31
New York . . . . .	225	334	366
Pennsylvania . . . . .	48	77	97
Ohio . . . . .	35	88	114
Michigan . . . . .	66	98	98
WISCONSIN . . . . .	84	80	62
United States . . . . .	857	1,087	1,201

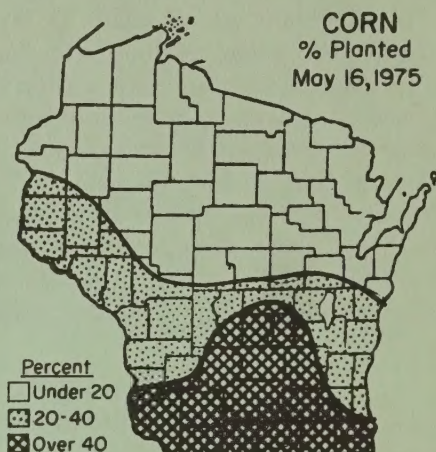
1/ Preliminary.

## MAY CROP REPORT

After a late start, field work on Wisconsin farms became active during May. Below normal temperatures in April resulted in slow drying of fields. Farmers were ready to start on spring planting when heavy rains on April 26-28 kept them off the fields for another week. Favorable weather in May, especially during the week of May 11-17, allowed rapid progress on field work. As of May 19th, farmers were nearly finished planting oats. This was one of the latest planting seasons for oats as many farmers did not have any oats in the ground before the first of May. Despite the lateness of the season, most farmers seeded their intended acreage of small grains except for some in the south who changed to corn when the planting seasons overlapped. The need for forage supplies next year was a factor in staying with the intended oat acreage.

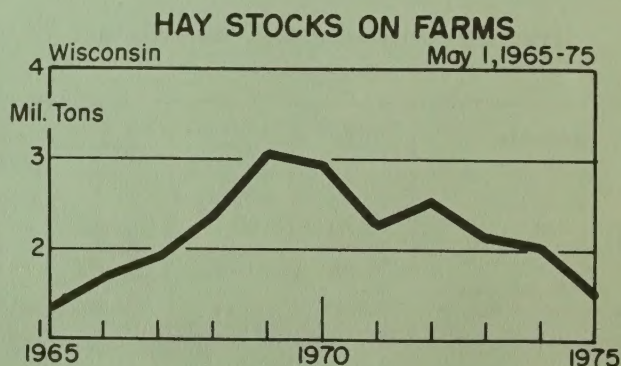
Corn planting made good progress in the second full week of May and by May 19th was nearly half done. This pace was ahead of last year and the normal progress. Planting conditions for corn this year were a direct contrast to a year ago when cold, wet weather severely disrupted planting schedules and caused slow germination of crops in the ground. Unseasonably warm weather on May 18-20, along with some needed showers and thunderstorms, were helpful for quick

germination of corn this year. Temperatures climbed into the low 90's in the southern part of the State, some of the warmest readings ever for so early in the season.



Planting of early peas and potatoes was about finished by May 19th, a couple weeks later than usual. Sweet corn and other vegetable crops were being planted. Work was progressing on tobacco seedbeds. Spring plowing was three-fourths completed, the same as last year and normal. Planting of soybeans was getting started as corn planting came to a conclusion. Fruit trees were in bloom and pollination weather should have been favorable.

Hay fields and pastures began making rapid growth in May after a slow start because of cold temperatures in April. Cattle were being put out on pastures as soon as grass was suitable for grazing. Many farms were out of stored feed by the middle of May. Hay stocks as of May 1, 1975 were at a ten year low. Farmers in central, southern, and eastern areas of Wisconsin were finding extensive winterkill on their hay fields, especially on older stands. Some fields were being dug or plowed up and reseeded. A lack of snow cover and rain in January that formed an ice covering on hay fields were mainly responsible for the winterkill. Western and northern areas had a good protective snow cover all winter and prospects were encouraging for a fine first crop of hay there. With zero carryover and substantial winterkill in certain areas, farmers were concerned about hay supplies for the coming winter months. A record high cattle inventory on Wisconsin farms had depleted hay supplies. Farmers are hoping for an improvement in livestock prices so that they can begin culling their herds.





Soil moisture supplies were adequate to surplus during the early part of the planting season. Warm and dry weather on May 16-18 created a need for more moisture on sandy and light soils. Showers and thunderstorms developed late on the 18th and continued on the 19th and 20th to provide moisture for getting the newly planted crops off to a good start.

Rainfall in Inches, by Districts, Wisconsin

District	Month of April		
	1974	1975	Normal
Northwest . . . . .	2.8	2.3	2.5
North Central . . . . .	2.8	2.5	2.4
Northeast . . . . .	3.0	2.1	2.6
West Central . . . . .	2.7	4.5	2.7
Central . . . . .	2.9	3.4	2.8
East Central . . . . .	3.0	2.2	2.8
Southwest . . . . .	3.6	3.9	3.0
South Central . . . . .	4.0	2.9	2.9
Southeast . . . . .	4.0	2.7	2.9

## BUTTER PRODUCTION CONTINUES HIGHER IN APRIL

Weekly estimates indicate that butter production in the Nation during April could be 13 percent higher than a year earlier. The increase from a year ago became smaller as the month progressed and April's output was considerably less than the 25 percent gain shown in the first quarter of 1975. Wisconsin creameries also churned more butter in April than a year earlier but the increase was not as sharp as the 27 percent gain for January through March.

According to weekly estimates, production of American cheese in the Nation during April may be 14 percent under the previous year. Output of American cheese in the first quarter of 1975 was down 19 percent from that period last year. American cheese production in Wisconsin for April was also below a year ago but the rate of decline lessened during the month.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1975	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1975	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
March . . . .	96,345	+ 24	+ 32	144,117	- 20	- 15
Jan.-March .	284,066	+ 25	+ 27	396,837	- 19	- 14
Weeks ending:						
April 10 . .	24,000	+ 24	+ 27	35,000	- 17	- 17
April 17 . .	23,560	+ 14	+ 15	35,100	- 16	- 16
April 24 . .	23,600	+ 11	+ 21	35,850	- 13	- 11
May 1 . . .	23,200	+ 6	+ 6	36,900	- 9	- 6
Total . . . .	94,360	+ 13	xxx	142,850	- 14	xxx

## CHEESE AND BUTTER STOCKS BELOW YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of butter and cheese in the Nation at the end of April were below a year ago. There were 442 million pounds of cheese in cold storage on April 30, down

10 percent from the previous year. This was the first time that cheese stocks in cold storage were below a year earlier since October 1973.

Stocks of American cheese amounted to 381 million pounds at the end of April, a decline of 8 percent from last year. Swiss cheese supplies in cold storage were 14 percent less than on April 30, 1974 and all other cheese stocks were down 18 percent.

The 64 million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of April were 19 percent under a year ago. However, Government owned stocks of 30 million pounds were nearly five times greater than on April 30, 1974.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	April 30, 1973	April 30, 1974	April 30, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter . . . . .	125,074	79,019	63,849	- 19
Cheese, American . . . . .	247,313	415,593	380,871	- 8
Cheese, Swiss . . . . .	9,565	12,857	11,092	- 14
Cheese, all other . . . . .	46,547	61,021	49,965	- 18
Cheese, total . . . . .	303,425	489,471	441,928	- 10
	WISCONSIN			
Butter . . . . .	8,093	3,799	5,632	+ 48
Cheese, American . . . . .	161,075	236,508	199,878	- 15
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter . . . . .	103,565	6,290	30,237	+ 381
Cheese, American . . . . .	129	429	3,423	+ 698

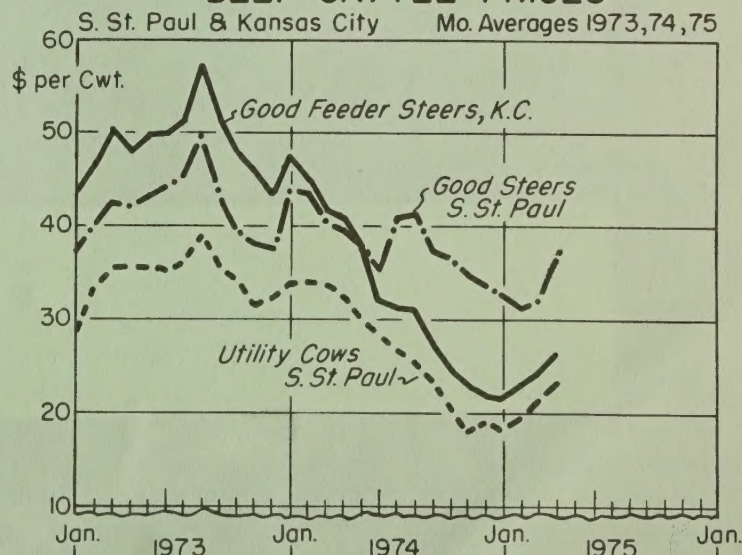
\*Included in above totals.

## BEEF MARKET STRONGER

Prices of good grade feeder steers at Kansas City and fed steers at St. Paul showed price strength from March to April as did utility cows at St. Paul.

Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$26.54 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market in April up \$2.20 from March and the third consecutive month of higher feeder steer prices. However, the April price was well below the average of \$41.03 a hundredweight a year ago.

## BEEF CATTLE PRICES





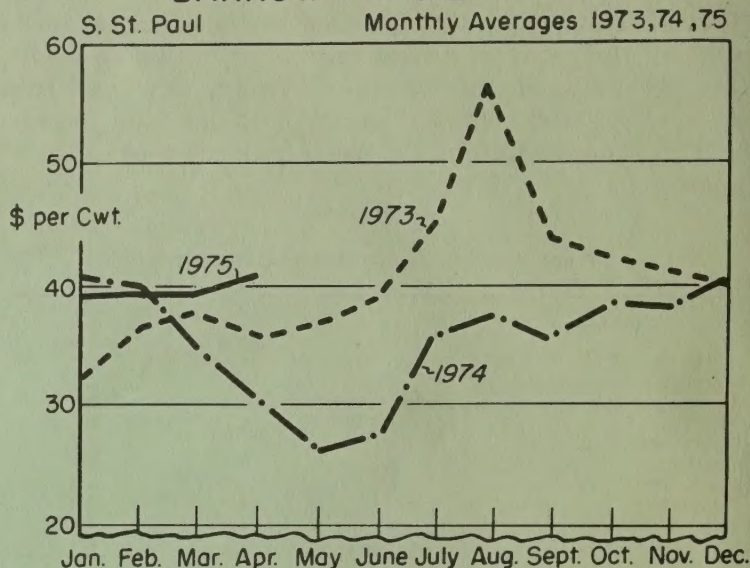
Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$37.32 a hundredweight during April. This was \$5.33 more than in March and the highest fed steer price since last September. Fed steers at St. Paul averaged \$39.57 a hundredweight in April 1974.

Utility cow prices continued to increase in 1975. The April average of \$23.14 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market was \$1.92 above March but \$9.66 under the previous year.

#### PRICES FOR BARROWS AND GILTS HIGHER

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market increased from March to April. Barrows and gilts averaged \$40.81 a hundredweight in April, up \$1.57 from the previous month and nearly \$10.00 higher than April 1974.

#### BARROW and GILT PRICES



3000-4M50053-75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE  
Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE



AGR - 101

BULK THIRD CLASS

992 55 000 0098742- -RLSE  
NATIONAL AGRIC LIBRARY -  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS  
1-  
BELTSVILLE MD 20705